derangements of fermenting churchyards, then they must be convinced of their fatal practices. Every decomposing human body deposited there is hourly altering and disordering the electric fluid of that locality, which otherwise ought to be, in its normal integrity, fit to maintain the natural proportion of the same fluid in living beings. When the organic elements of dead animals are resolving into kindred dust, that decomposing mass acts as a feeder for a vast display of galvanic actions in the moist grave, as certainly as an acid liquor sets loose a flood of electric fluid in a galvanic trough. As an untoward generation of disturbed electric agency is constantly at work in the continuous cauldron of dissolving graves, its action must be felt by the living in proportion to the vicinity and intensity of the galvanic disturbances. I had long since communicated to Dr. Simpson the result of my observations on the direful consequences resulting from an effervescing Golgotha, long kept in active fermentation in Belfast, near the quays, and on a level with low-water mark. This graveyard was bounded on three sides by streets and lanes, and the houses adjoining opened into it. I was for many years the medical attendant chiefly employed by the residents of that district, and can safely affirm that they were generally unhealthy, and liable to bowel complaints, influenza, fevers, English cholera, scrofula, and other diseases of debility, whilst the people on the opposite sides of the same lanes or streets were comparatively healthy, and exempt from the continual scale of epidemic disorders, which merged into each other according to the lethal activity of the galvanic passes in continual operation by the accession of new bodies, and by being in actual contact with the communicating tenements adjoining the churchyard. During all these years I had many proofs demonstrating that persons in these tenements could not be efficiently electrified, because the best machines could seldom produce sparks of any intensity. *During these years I often noticed that a magnet capable of sustaining fifty pounds with ease in other situations, could not for a moment suspend an iron of ten pounds in the habitations built on the derastating place of interment.* From these, and many other observations, it was plain that negative electricity pervaded this vast swamp, and drew away the positive electricity from the living creatures in immediate contact with the damp earth and air of that fatal and extended trough, or galvanic pile."

ARCHITECTS' CHARGES.

DERICK F. SVANTON, CLERK.

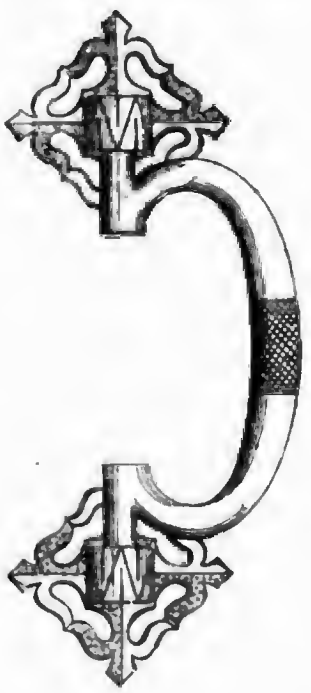
This was an action (tried on the Oxford circuit) for the amount of an architect's bill, for his expenses, and for furnishing plans for building a new district church at Ocker-hill, near Dudley. The defendant had paid 57*l.* 8*s.* into court, in satisfaction of the plaintiff's demand.

The plaintiff was said to be an architect of good practice in building churches, and the defendant was curate of the new district of Ocker-hill. By the direction of the defendant, the plaintiff had prepared several plans for the intended new church, and, at the suggestion of the defendant, several alterations and additions were afterwards made to some of the plans, and some new ones substituted for others. It did not appear that any specification for working the plans had ever been made or delivered. Though they had not been exactly followed in building the church, there was such a general resemblance of design that two architects swore that they had been substantially followed. It was proved that the ordinary remuneration for an architect, when he did not superintend the works, was 3½ per cent. on the estimate,* which was in this case 3,000*l.*, together with an allowance for travelling expenses.

Without hearing witnesses for the defence, the jury said they were already satisfied that the sum paid into court was a sufficient remuneration under the circumstances, and accordingly found a verdict for the defendant.

* So says our informant.

ANCIENT IRONWORK.



ANCIENT IRONWORK.

Annexed is a representation of a metal handle in Henry the Seventh's Chapel, at Westminster.

LANDLORDS AND TENANTS.

Gummer *v.* Powell.—This was an action to recover compensation in damages for an illegal seizure. The case was heard in the City Sheriffs' Court on Monday. Damages were laid at 10*l.*

The facts are these:—In July, 1848, the plaintiff, a poor woman, was induced to lend 28*l.* to a person named Offord, a tobacconist, at that time carrying on business in Little Bell-alley, where he rented a shop, parlour, and kitchen belonging to the defendant, who is the owner of several houses in that neighbourhood. Offord being unable to pay the loan, gave plaintiff a bill of sale of his stock in trade and furniture, dated 20th October, 1848. On the 4th of July in the present year, Offord being in arrears for rent, the defendant and a man named Shetlock broke open the shop door and distrained upon the goods in question, notwithstanding he had received notice to withdraw, and the instrument under which the plaintiff put in her claim having been shown to him.

The defendant admitted that he had received such notice, and that he gave Shetlock directions to break open the door, but considered that he was justified in so doing, the door being in the passage, and also on the ground that he had previously obtained an entry into the kitchen occupied by Offord, the door of which was wide open.

His Honour inquired if there was any door communicating from the kitchen to the shop? The defendant replied in the negative.

Shetlock, in the course of a rigid examination, admitted that he produced a false warrant.

Mr. Buchanan, who argued the case for the plaintiff, contended that the defendant had clearly been guilty of a trespass. The shop-door, notwithstanding it was in the passage, and was an inner door, was the outer door of the tenant. If it were not so, as well might it be contended that the landing door of a suite of chambers was not an outer door. The defendant, therefore, having made a forcible entry, had unlawfully possessed himself of the plaintiff's property. Had the goods belonged to the tenant, the defendant would have had an undoubted right to distrain; although, as in the case of the Duke of Brunswick *v.* Slowman, he would have been guilty of a trespass, and liable to an action. He (Mr. Buchanan) would say nothing about the bad warrant—(further than it went to show that the defendant was aware that he was acting illegally)—a landlord having a right to distrain in person, without the intervention of a broker.

The defendant's solicitor urged that his client, having got possession, had a right to distrain; and submitted that if his Honour should be of opinion that a trespass had been committed, the only person to whom the defendant was liable was the tenant.

His Honour concurred with Mr. Buchanan, that the door in the passage was the tenant's outer door. If there had been a door in the kitchen, which led to the premises broken into, then the defendant would have been justified. The defendant was clearly liable for trespass; but such an action could not be maintained by the plaintiff in the present action, who was only entitled to recover the value of the goods distrained by the defendant, and which, in his Honour's opinion, had been unlawfully seized.

The goods having been valued at 4*l.*, a verdict was given for that amount.

METROPOLITAN COMMISSION OF SEWERS.

A general court was held on Thursday, the 2nd instant, at the Court-house, Greek-street; Sir John Burgoyne in the chair.

The first subject was to receive the recommendations of the Financial Committee for payment of certain items for wages, flushing, and contracts, &c., amounting altogether to 647*l.* for the past week. A tabular statement was handed in, containing the different heads of expenditure.

The Hon. Fred. Byng rose, and said, in reference to the item for flushing, that charge appeared to have been made for merely stirring the offensive odours of the sewers, to the annoyance of the public at large, and the sum of 647*l.* for the week's expenditure was an extraordinary amount. The vestry of the parish of St. James's had pressed upon him the necessity of not discontinuing his attendance at the court, so that he might use his endeavours in checking wasteful expenditure upon experiments; but he was of opinion that his visits there were quite useless. He had no desire to "obstruct" the public business, or to sanction illegal proceedings. However, he must allude to the expenses of these experiments, which fell heavily upon the ratepayers, and he had no doubt would speedily rouse the parishes to take measures for the dissolution of a commission which spent the public money in useless objects, and did not remedy existing abuses. He wished to allude to another subject, and that was, that if anything more eminently than another could show the propriety of the protest that he had presented, it was, that an Act of Parliament had been—

Mr. Chadwick rose to order.—This was not the proper time to make these observations, when they had a routine business before them. Mr. Byng had been long enough a member of that board to know that order should be followed out. If he had anything to bring forward against the commission, let him prove his case in a proper and regular manner.

Mr. Byng said he would submit to the decision of the Chairman; but he wished to know when would be the proper time to speak on an Act of Parliament which had not been heard of in the court, and had been passed without the slightest knowledge of it by the members of the court.

Mr. Chadwick replied that this was a commission issued by the Crown, and the Act referred to had been brought in by the Government on their own responsibility, and therefore they were not constitutionally required to give notice of it to the court.

Mr. Leslie said, Mr. Byng had been requested by his vestry to attend, and he, finding a large item for wages, wished to know how those wages were expended. As they were charged in a mass, they had no power to judge whether they had been properly employed.

A long personal altercation ensued, and after some delay Mr. Chadwick proceeded to address the court at some length. He said it had been held up to parishes that they were spending enormous sums of money for flushing the sewers, whereas the fact was, that sum did not exceed 240*l.* per week. This was for emptying sewers, which at the period to which the old commissioners belonged would have cost 6*s.* 6*d.* per load in carting away, to be discharged into the Thames or any other place found convenient, and no doubt in many cases into another sewer, only to be again raised at a fresh cost. By their mode they had now reduced that charge to 6*d.* per load. Such was the absolute state of things, that even this economy had been held up to be a waste of the ratepayers' money. For his part, he wished there had been more of this extravagance, and they had expended to a much